

# 2001: FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS AND PARTNERSHIP



JOHN H CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

This year marks an important milestone in the history of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. For fifteen years now, the Corridor Commission and its many Heritage Partners have been working to make the unique concept of a heritage corridor a reality. From the start, people have fueled this effort with their innovative ideas. Together, we've worked to capitalize on the unique history, cultural heritage, and landscape of the Blackstone Valley – the birthplace of America's Industrial Revolution.

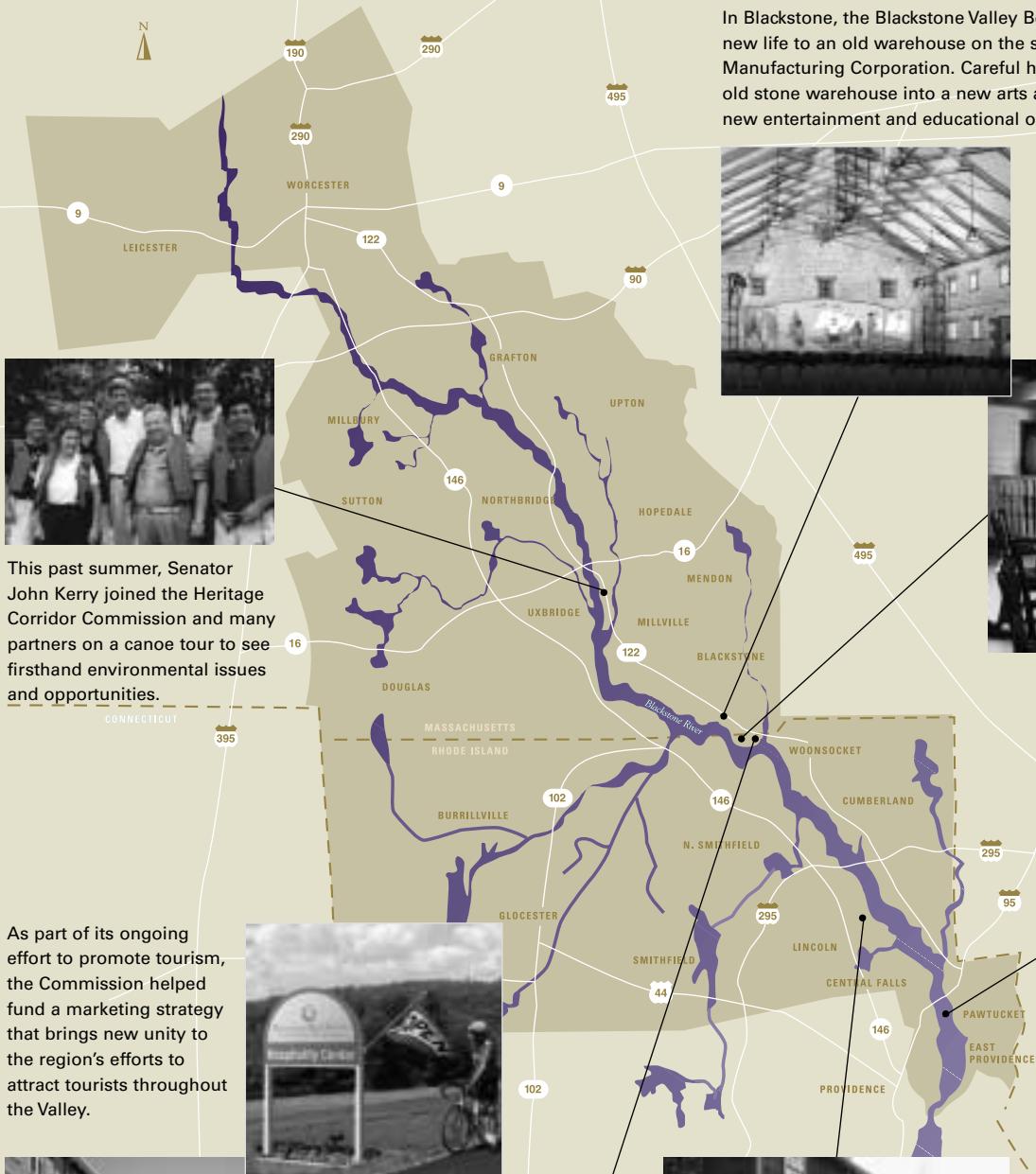
Our efforts have resulted in major successes on many fronts, including historic preservation, river revitalization, and economic development. People are returning to the Blackstone River to live near it, canoe its waters, and enjoy its natural beauty. Several sections of the valley-wide Blackstone River Bikeway are completed, while

others are in the planning stages – helping link the valley's greenways. Dozens of historic buildings and landscapes throughout the 400,000 acres of the corridor have been preserved for future generations. Innovative museums and visitor centers tell the story of the Valley's rich, multi-cultural heritage and traditional arts.

While we celebrate these successes, we know that there are many challenges ahead. As we move forward, we turn to the enthusiasm, energy, and ideas of the Blackstone Valley's more than 500,000 people. Our congressional delegation, dozens of non-profit groups, state agencies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, community officials, business leaders, and individual volunteers – these are just some of the people responsible for fifteen years of progress. People make the Valley what it is today, and they will guide its future as well.



# MOVING AHEAD IN 2001



In Blackstone, the Blackstone Valley Boys and Girls Club is bringing new life to an old warehouse on the site of the former Blackstone Manufacturing Corporation. Careful historic rehabilitation is turning an old stone warehouse into a new arts and education center, bringing new entertainment and educational opportunities to area youth.



In Woonsocket's Market Square, a new exhibit at the Museum of Work and Culture provides insights into life in a mill village with a triple-decker that faithfully shows local housing circa 1920. Now visitors can get a sense of what life was like for a working family during the Valley's textile era.



This past summer, Senator John Kerry joined the Heritage Corridor Commission and many partners on a canoe tour to see firsthand environmental issues and opportunities.

As part of its ongoing effort to promote tourism, the Commission helped fund a marketing strategy that brings new unity to the region's efforts to attract tourists throughout the Valley.



In Pawtucket and Central Falls, an advisory group is looking at new ways to help migratory fish swim up the Blackstone River from the Narragansett Bay. Fish ladders will help these fish pass dams and other barriers, helping bring new life to the river.



How can hundreds of Valley mills be promoted for new business opportunities? A regional mill inventory – supported by the Commission – will provide an invaluable tool for encouraging future use.



Preservation efforts along the Great Road in Lincoln include restoration efforts at the Moffit Mill (now complete), as well as studies of Hearthside mansion and the Valentine Whitman, Jr. House.



In Woonsocket, a grassroots effort has brought new luster to the Stadium Theatre, a turn-of-the-century gem that required major repairs and renovation. Now the Stadium Theatre for the Performing Arts brings concerts, films, and other cultural events to the area.



Several Commissioners and staff attended the World Canal Conference in Ireland this year and toured the Blackstone's "Sister" Heritage Area in the Amber Valley of England.



## THE BACKBONE OF THE BLACKSTONE

The Blackstone Valley is diverse, spanning two states, twenty-four communities, and thousands of historical sites. In a way, the Valley serves as a microcosm of the challenges any American community faces when working to preserve a unique historical and environmental landscape while ensuring economic growth and development. As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, six key places exemplify the challenges of the Valley, and the success that people can achieve by working together.

These six places are truly the “backbone of the Blackstone,” and serve as important resources for residents and visitors alike. All of these projects received funding and support from the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission through the Heritage Partnership Program. Together, these places provide powerful evidence of the positive changes that have taken place in the Valley during this important time. Under the Corridor banner, we have seen incredible progress – and there’s even more ahead!

### THE BLACKSTONE RIVER: A RIVER REBORN

#### *Challenge: Protecting the river*

The Blackstone River is the heart of the Valley’s history, and its rebirth. Once neglected and polluted, the Blackstone is back. Federal and state agencies have made an

ongoing investment in improving the water quality and ecology of the river. Grassroots efforts have protected the Blackstone Gorge and other scenic areas. New river access points, docks in Central Falls, and other improvements help a wide range of people enjoy the river. The Blackstone River Bikeway – which parallels the river – is well on its way. In Worcester, the Blackstone Canal is the focus of exciting urban design ideas. And community development is increasing along the river. These developments and more point toward a new Blackstone River – one that serves as a source of pride for the entire Valley.

### THE NORTHERN GATEWAY: DEFINING THE FUTURE OF THE REGION

#### *Challenge: Managing environmental impact and economic development*

Linking Rt. 146 with the Massachusetts Turnpike has long been a dream of Central

Massachusetts residents and businesses. Years of meetings and negotiations resulted in the Blackstone Parkway, which serves as a gateway to Worcester and the Blackstone Valley. The parkway is described as one of the “greenest highways” in America – with new bridges, thousands of trees and plants along the roadway, the nearby Blackstone Bikeway construction, canoe launch sites, and more. Although it began as a typical “pavement and bridge” project, the highway connector became an agent of change that is driving major redevelopment and environmental preservation efforts that benefit individuals, communities, and the region.

An incredible group of people is working on the Northern Gateway Project, which includes a wide range of projects. Plans are underway to explore unearthing hidden sections of







the Blackstone Canal leading from the newly renovated Union Station in Worcester to the planned visitor center in Quinsigamond Village. The former Washburn & Moen Wireworks complex will serve as the gateway visitor center, highlighting Worcester as a hub for invention and enterprise. The heritage park and bikeway will stretch along the river and connect the gateway to the rest of the Blackstone Valley. Keep your eye on this key area – the next few years will see major change, investment, and smart development.

**BROAD MEADOW BROOK  
SANCTUARY AND WATERSHED:  
THE POWER OF WATER**  
*Challenge: Preserving a vulnerable  
wetland environment*

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary has been a leader in environmental education for years. This beautiful environment features

new trails through wetlands and uplands – the ideal place for a walk during any season. A new Visitor and Education Center features visitor services for the Valley, enabling visitors to use this area as a jumping-off point for other travels. There are also many water-related exhibits – both inside and outside. In the lobby, visitors can see a three-dimensional model of the area, highlighting the watershed and sanctuary. As the work on the Rt. 146 connector continues just to the west, efforts are underway to link up with the proposed Northern Gateway Visitor Center in Quinsigamond Village. Connecting these two vital greenways makes both areas more accessible, while opening up new possibilities for events and activities.

**RIVER BEND FARM: THE  
HEART OF THE VALLEY**  
*Challenge: Highlighting the Valley's  
agricultural heritage*

Once a dairy farm, River Bend Farm is now a thriving destination in the heart of the Blackstone Valley. Here visitors can canoe along a remarkably well-preserved section of the Blackstone Canal, walk the restored towpath, and wander the extensive Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park. It all starts at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center, located in a carefully rehabilitated barn, where visitors can find out about upcoming events (such as this year's Greenway Challenge) and festivals (such as the annual Heritage Homecoming). Here visitors can also learn about the Valley's agricultural heritage and much more. The landscape around the farm is characteristic of the valley, combining farmland (agriculture), the river (water power), the canal (transportation), and nearby mill buildings (The Industrial Revolution). Now it is preserved for future residents and visitors to enjoy – and to learn from.

Owned and operated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM), this popular area is an example of how people, working together, can preserve and enhance the Valley.

**MUSEUM OF WORK  
AND CULTURE: PRESERVING  
CULTURE**  
*Challenge: Preserving history and  
bringing it to life*

The Museum of Work and Culture highlights the Valley's ethnic and mill worker heritage through intriguing exhibits and historical interpretation. Housed in the Lincoln Textile Building – one of the last active mills in Woonsocket's Market Square – the museum is now a popular destination for school groups and others interested

in the Valley's heritage. Many of the items in the museum came from area homes and collections, and include possessions brought by the thousands of French-Canadian workers who came to the Valley from Quebec. The museum also includes a small visitor center that gives visitors an overview of the main themes of the Valley, and points them to other sites.

Key groups involved in the creation and management of the museum include the Rhode Island Historical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the City of Woonsocket, which has led a remarkable revitalization in Woonsocket's Market Square area in recent years.

**THE SOUTHERN  
GATEWAY: EXPANDING ON  
OLD SLATER MILL**  
*Challenge: Linking this historic site to  
the rest of the valley*

Slater Mill is where the Valley's industrial heritage began. Now the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center at the Old Slater Mill links this rich historical site to the rest of the Valley – and serves as a southern entripoint for visitors. The visitor center houses the offices of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, which staffs much of the multi-purpose facility. In the theater, visitors can see the internationally acclaimed documentary "Hidden in the Blackstone Valley." A wide range of exhibits and an art galley tell the Valley's story and inspire visitors to explore Slater Mill and venture further north. The continuing preservation/rehabilitation of the Slater Mill keeps our Industrial history alive and vital. The Visitor Center in Pawtucket opens up new opportunities for historic interpretation and tourism.

# REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN: 2001

More than 200 years ago, Samuel Slater launched a revolution in American industry with his "Rhode Island System," which provided a framework for the economic, educational, social, and cultural life of the Blackstone River Valley. Fifteen years ago, a second "revolution" occurred in the Blackstone Valley with the establishment of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor by Congress. The Corridor has provided financial incentives, technical and planning assistance, and leadership to support Massachusetts and Rhode Island state programs, local governments, and non-profit organizations that preserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of this nationally significant region.

During the last fifteen years, the Heritage Corridor has given the region a genuine sense of place through signage, interpretive materials, television and news media publications, and educational programming. Treasured historical buildings and neighborhoods have been restored thanks to the Heritage Corridor resources and leadership. Important planning tools help Valley residents and officials plan for their future, while preserving much of what is good and important about the Valley's past and its natural setting. In addition, the Heritage Corridor has worked diligently with state and local governments, foundations, businesses, and non-profit community groups to invest time, energy, and resources in enhancing the Valley and its communities.

With five years remaining in the Corridor's current congressional authorization, the Commission, its staff, and supporters are building for the future. Resources such as the Blackstone Valley Institute encourage sound regional and local planning. The Blackstone Valley Leadership Initiative helps develop a new generation of civic leaders in the region. And to better tell the Valley's story to future residents and visitors alike, the Commission and its partners are working to complete major regional projects, such as the Blackstone River Bikeway, as well as linking visitors centers and other key points of interest.

There are too many people to thank for the continuing success of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor – the Commissioners, the staff, the volunteers, the state and local officials and agencies, the business and civic leaders and organizations . . . the list goes on. However, we would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude for the significant support provided by United States Senators Edward M. Kennedy, John F. Kerry, Jack Reed, and Lincoln D. Chafee; United States Representatives Richard E. Neal, Patrick J. Kennedy, James McGovern, and James R. Langevin; as well as their predecessors in Congress who served between 1982 and the present.

We must also acknowledge the terrific support that we have received from our federal partners – the National Park Service and several other federal agencies, especially the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environment Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Finally, the Commission is indebted to Executive Director Michael Creasey and his outstanding staff for their enthusiasm, dedication, and support, which have contributed immeasurably to the success of the Heritage Corridor this past year, and throughout the existence of the organization.

Senator Richard T. Moore  
Chair, 1987-1990 and 2000-2002

## CORRIDOR COMMISSION

### EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Richard T. Moore, Chairman  
MA State Senator

Burton Stallwood, Vice-Chairman  
Lincoln, RI

Mary K. Connor, Secretary  
Chair, Planning Subcommittee  
Sutton, MA

Kenneth Bianchi, Treasurer  
North Smithfield, RI

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Marie Rust, Regional Director  
Northeast Region

### COMMISSIONERS

Elizabeth Ames, Director  
MA Department of Economic Development

Matthew Amorello, Commissioner  
MA Highway Department

Nancy Benoit, Woonsocket, RI

Robert Billington, President  
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

James Doyle, Mayor, Pawtucket, RI

David Dunham, General Manager  
Clean Start Properties, Worcester, MA

Cara Metz, Executive Director  
MA Historical Commission

Patricia Mehrten, Historian, Burrillville, RI

Louise M. Redding, CPA, Uxbridge, MA

Jan Reitsma, Director  
RI Department of Environmental Management

Edward Sanderson, Executive Director  
RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
Chair, American Heritage Rivers Subcommittee

Tom Schumpert, Director  
RI Economic Development Corporation

Peter C. Webber, Commissioner  
MA Department of Environmental Management

Donna Williams, Conservation Advocacy Coordinator  
Massachusetts Audubon Society  
Chair, Environmental Subcommittee

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STAFF

Michael Creasey,  
Executive Director

#### *Planning & Project Management*

Hal Welch, Director

Nancy Brittain, Community and

Landscape Preservation Coordinator

Juliet Hansel, Community Planner

Mark Jewell, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Lorraine Provencher, Planning Team Assistant

Diane Wendland,

Greenway Program Coordinator

Christopher Noonan,

Blackstone Valley Institute Coordinator

#### *Interpretation & Ranger Services*

Sue Andrews, Operations Chief

Jack Whittaker, Park Ranger

Kevin Klyberg, Park Ranger

Peter Coffin, Park Ranger

Ray Boswell, Park Ranger

Dan Meharg, Park Ranger

Suzanne Buchanan, Park Ranger

Karen Mateleska, Park Ranger

Chuck Arning, Park Ranger & Television Producer

#### *Administration*

Liz McConnell, Administration Officer

Linda McWhorter, Executive Secretary

Diane Angell, Budget Analyst

Barbara Dixon, Receptionist & Visitor Services

#### *Roger Williams National Memorial Site*

Sue Andrews, Site Manager

John McNiff, Park Ranger

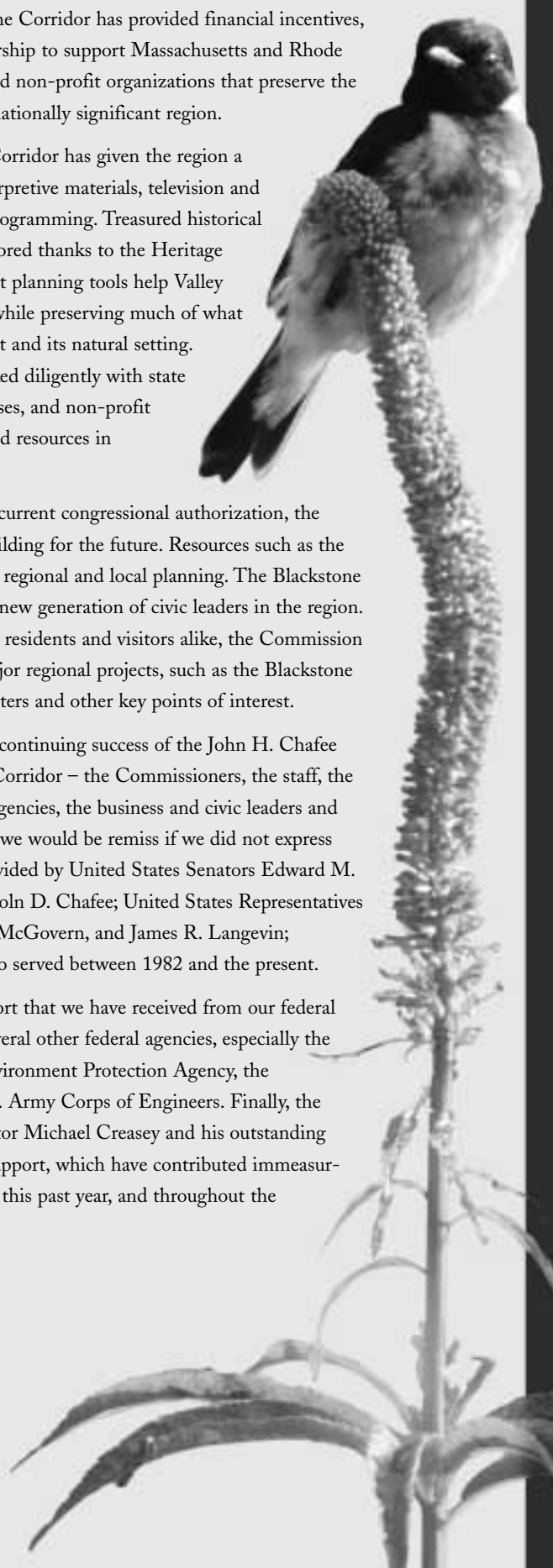
Laura Samit, Park Ranger

Sparkle Bryant, Park Ranger

Maria Levesque, Park Ranger

Paul Coletta, Maintenance Worker

Raul Medina, Maintenance Worker





## A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

In 2001, the Corridor Commission received its largest congressional appropriation yet – \$3.4 million! With this generous support, Congress made a major investment in the Valley – one that generated results and leveraged significant additional funding. More than \$2.5 million of this appropriation helped bring to life 75 key projects proposed by communities, non-profit organizations, and agencies. Here is a sampling of the diverse projects supported by the Commission in 2001.

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS BLACKSTONE VALLEY

Thousands of preservation-minded individuals – including members of the Commission – attended “Preserving the Spirit of Place,” a major historic preservation conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in October, 2001. Held in Providence, the conference featured a panel on building political partnerships to preserve the landscape of the Valley. Attendees also had the opportunity to travel up the Valley and visit key sites – including the Slater Mill Historic Site, the Blackstone River Greenway, the Museum of Work & Culture, and more. This influential national conference helped expose preservationists from around the country to the Valley’s “living landscape.”

### FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE WITH THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY INSTITUTE

The Blackstone Valley Institute – the arm of the Commission devoted to land planning, economic issues, and heritage site developments – stayed busy in 2001. Serving as a powerful forum for strategic issues, the Institute focused on two key initiatives – creating a leadership development program and bringing new resources, people, and ideas together to identify key issues associated with increasing population and related development in Valley communities.

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation is spearheading “Leadership Blackstone Valley,” which cultivates community leaders by providing new education and inspiration. Applicants chosen to be part of this program will receive a complete overview of the Valley and its issues, and will participate in a range of activities designed to foster

a network of confident, skilled, and empowered local leaders.

The Institute continues to reach out to decision-makers and planners to determine the key issues facing the Valley. This input allows the Institute to host important forums, such as this year’s Community Preservation SuperSummit. Through these programs, the Institute brings together the resources and expertise necessary to address complex issues that are essential to the Valley’s future.

### STAYING CURRENT VIA THE RIVER VALLEY CURRENT

In 2001, the Corridor Commission continued to sponsor *Revolutions*, a special insert to *The River Valley Current*, the monthly newspaper distributed free throughout the Blackstone Valley. This insert enables the Commission to reach thousands of valley residents and keep them informed about upcoming

ing events, developments, and progress. For example, a special insert announced the Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge in late September.

#### SUPERSUMMIT GIVES COMMUNITIES A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

It's hard to envision the future. But the first-ever Interstate Community Preservation Super-Summit – sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Institute, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs – helped participants envision what their communities would look like if development continued along its current course. Created by powerful software, detailed “build-out” maps provided a window on the future – one that surprised some of the planners and others who attended. Now they can use what they learned to make more informed decisions about zoning and development. Spearheaded by Secretary Bob Durand of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, this important event gave community decision-makers the tools and techniques they need to protect Valley communities.

#### BLACKSTONE RIVER CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE

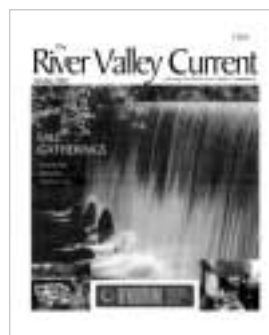
In April, more than 1,000 volunteers along the banks of the Blackstone from Worcester to Pawtucket worked to help clean up the river as part of the rejuvenation of the “ZAP the Blackstone” effort. This major clean-up effort was led by The Blackstone River Coalition – a unified, bi-state group of diverse environmental organizations, businesses, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies. More than thirty groups are currently part of the coalition, which sponsored key projects to restore the Blackstone in 2001.

The Blackstone River also served as a fascinating setting for a 5-day teacher training workshop sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Rivers Project – part of the national, non-profit Rivers Project. Field trips in July focused on many ways to teach about aspects of the river – including chemistry, biology, earth science, geography, language arts, and mathematics. The goal? To help teachers – such as 2001 Chafee Award winner Michael Ferry – integrate the river and its unique environment into a wide range of educational programs.

#### A NEW LOOK AT DEPOT SQUARE

In 2001, plans were finalized for the first phase of the extensive renovations to the historic, 19th century Woonsocket Depot and surrounding square. Funded by the Corridor Commission, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and federal enhancement funds, these efforts will help revitalize Depot Square and re-establish it as a transportation hub. A new bus station on Main Street will provide public access to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) – making Depot Square an “intermodal” transportation hub for automobiles, buses, and trains. RIPTA will also gain office space at this facility.

The historic depot – once home to the Providence and Worcester Railroad – will be renovated and rehabilitated to provide a basement archive for the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. The offices of the Corridor Commission – headquartered at the depot – will receive much-needed renovations and expansion.



#### RANGERS REACH OUT THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY

A dozen National Park Service rangers serve the Valley, providing valuable interpretation to thousands of residents and visitors. Working at facilities throughout the Valley – from Providence to Worcester – these rangers help bring a sense of the national importance to the Valley. Supplemented by the help of many Volunteers In Parks (VIPs), they serve an integral role in the Corridor Commission's efforts. In 2001, they helped more than 18,000 people – educating, assisting, directing (directions are always important in the Valley), and advising them. The Rangers play an important role in telling the Valley's story from all angles – historical, environmental, cultural, and recreational. This year marks the largest audience yet for the Ranger's much-needed, and much appreciated, contribution.

#### INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE FORUM VISITS THE VALLEY

In April, scholars, historians, and architects from around the world attended the annual Vernacular Architecture Forum, held this year in Newport, RI. The theme of the conference – “Newport and the Narragansett Basin: The Architecture and Landscapes of the Colonial and Early National Periods” – fit in well with the history of the Blackstone Valley, home to hundreds of buildings from that era. Conference attendees toured the Valley, stopping at meeting houses, Daniels Farm, a private home in Lonsdale, and other sites. Their findings? The Valley has many one-of-a-kind architectural gems that should be preserved for further study, and future generations. A detailed report of the conference will provide precise drawings and other data that will serve as a valuable resource for future preservation efforts.



## TAKING THE CHALLENGE

Linking the Valley's greenways (preserved open spaces) and blueways (waterway corridors) is one of the ongoing challenges of Corridor partners. During a sunny weekend in late September, it was also a challenge for the dozens of teams that biked, paddled, and ran the length of the Blackstone River. The first-ever Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge spurred a great deal of action along the river, helping create new river access points and new connections between the Valley's greenways and blueways.

This landmark event – sponsored by the Corridor Commission, the Providence and Worcester Railroad, the Massachusetts Highway Department, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, and the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, and a wide range of other groups – proved the importance of greenways and blueways.

More than 44 miles of running, canoeing, and biking made the Greenway Challenge a real challenge for even the most physically fit. In the end, it was “Great Canadian Team #22” that rose to the challenge, completing the course in three hours and forty-two minutes. But everyone who participated in the many events of the weekend had a great

time, and learned a little more about the Valley in the process.

This event – one of the highlights of 2001 in the Valley – served a number of purposes. It helped draw attention to the greenways and blueways that can link the valley's parks, natural resources, cultural features, and historic sites. Some greenways and blueways already exist. Others are in progress. And still others are envisioned. By linking these resources, we can make it easier to create and design new,

innovative uses for them. And we can make them more accessible to everyone in our communities.

The event also served as the anchor for a full weekend of hikes, walks, paddles, and other events throughout the valley. Participants enjoyed the variety of cultural, historical, and recreational opportunities that these greenways and blueways provide the valley. And last, but not least, the Greenway Challenge was fun for everyone – planners, volunteers, participants, and visitors.





# FISCAL YEAR 2001 APPROPRIATIONS

The Commission is supported by congressional appropriations that have leveraged more than \$25 million in additional funding to pursue a wide range of projects that benefit the Valley.

## Commission Operations \$600,000

Congressional appropriation to support Commission operations for administration and project development.

## National Park Service Technical Assistance \$291,000

Appropriation through the Operations of the National Park Service to provide technical specialists in historic preservation, planning and design, and National Park Rangers.

## Development Funds \$2,500,000

Congressional line-item appropriation to provide funding to implement the following preservation and development strategies outlined in the Commission Plan and legislation.

### Heritage Infrastructure

Northern Gateway Visitor Center	\$ 250,000
Support for development of a full-service visitor center	
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park	250,000
Development of interpretive and visitor facilities	
Visitor Centers Collaborative	175,000
Enhancing the quality of visitor services throughout the Corridor	
Blackstone Valley Visitor Center – Pawtucket	75,000
Support for the Valley's southern gateway	
Woonsocket Museum of Work & Culture	25,000
Enhancement of the museum and its exhibits	
Moffit Mill Interpretive Plan and Exhibits	25,000
Developing public access and exhibits	
Broad Meadow Brook Trails	25,000
Expansion of exhibits, trails, and visitor center elements	
Hearthside History Research	6,000
(Friends of Hearthside/Town of Lincoln)	
Photo Essay of P&W Railroad (Heritage Harbor Museum)	5,000

### Heritage Programming

Blackstone River Theatre Programming	80,000
Developing cultural, traditional, and performing arts programming	
Tourism Marketing and Products	40,000
Museum of Work & Culture Heritage Programming	30,000
(RI Historical Society)	
Special Events and Festivals	20,000
Paddle Club	20,000
Paddling program and river monitoring	
Ranger Programs	10,000
Exploring Our Culture: A Multi-cultural Performing Arts Series	7,500
(Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation)	
Explore & Discover: A River Mosaic (Uxbridge Public Schools)	7,000
Water Power Educational Program (Slater Mill Historic Site)	5,000
Blackstone River Studies School Bus (Woonsocket High School)	5,000
Volunteer in Parks Development Program	5,000
Cluster Events (Blackstone Valley Visitors Bureau)	3,000
Historic Preservation Education Programming	2,500
(Preservation Society of Pawtucket)	
Life at the Bottom – Investigations of Macroinvertebrates	2,500
(Woonsocket High School)	
Pollution Studies of the Blackstone River	840
(Mt. St. Charles Academy)	

### Strategic Design and Planning

Blackstone Valley Institute – Expansion of this strategic forum	\$ 250,000
Greenway Preservation Along River	100,000
Coordinating a land acquisition strategy for a Corridor-wide greenway	
Downtown Douglas: Creating the Future, Rediscovering the Past	25,000
(Douglas Community Development Department)	
Blackstone River Valley Design Guidelines	10,000
Chepachet River Park (Town of Glocester)	10,000
Smithfield Greenspace Forum (Town of Smithfield)	5,000

### Preservation and Enhancement

Woonsocket Depot Preservation	50,000
Chestnut Hill Meeting House Preservation	30,000
Support for Historic Rehabilitation	
Canal Preservation and Management – Impact Assessment	25,000
Stonehouse Arts & Education Center (Blackstone Valley Boys & Girls Club)	25,000
Valentine Whitman, Jr. House (Roger Williams University)	21,000
Restoration of Main Hall (Stadium Theatre for the Performing Arts)	20,000
Regional Mill Building Inventory (Woonsocket Industrial Dev. Corp)	15,000
Historic Structures Report, Daniels Farm (Metacomet Land Trust)	15,000
Historic Whitin Park Preservation Project – Phase II	10,000
(G. M. Whitin Community Association)	
Old Douglas Common (Community Preservation Society)	5,000
Marion's Camp Historic Survey (Town of Sutton)	1,500

### River Recovery and Recreational Development

River Access Program – Developing river access sites	400,000
River Visioning – Exercise to bring focus to river recovery efforts	60,000
River Coalition Projects	40,000
Blackstone River Fisheries Restoration	28,660
(Narragansett Bay Estuary Program/RI DEM)	
Bikeway Event – Support for the Greenway Challenge event	25,000
Riverwalk in Downtown Pascoag: Phase II (Downtown Pascoag Assoc)	20,000
Blackstone River Science Center (Blackstone Valley Tourism Council)	6,500
BV Middle School Water Quality Testing Program (Assumption School)	3,000

### Other

Professional Services to Communities	140,000
Sign & Print Communications	75,000
NPS Administration	10,000

2001

## JOHN H. CHAFEE HERITAGE AWARD

The third annual John H. Chafee Heritage Award is given to individuals who embody Senator Chafee's commitment to celebrating the Valley's heritage and revitalizing its rivers.

### RALPH (BUD) GURNEY

Bud Gurney is the heart of Waters Farm, the beautiful property in Sutton listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which serves as one of the Blackstone Valley's key heritage sites. Since 1974, Bud has been working to preserve Waters Farm and to ensure its future. Bud and his dedicated volunteers have created an important place for education and recreation in the Valley.

### REBECCA PAIGE AND MEAGHAN PIERANNUNZI

These two honor students at Woonsocket High School played key roles in *The Decision to Leave*, an original play written and produced specifically by and for the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket. The widely praised play takes place at the end of the 19th century, and offers insights on the struggle immigrants faced when leaving their country and coming to work in New England's textile mills. Premiering in February, 2001, the play would not have happened without Rebecca and Meaghan volunteering their time and acting talents.

### 8TH GRADE CLASS, ASSUMPTION SCHOOL (MILLBURY, MA)

An exceptional 8th grade class and its teacher, JoAnne O'Connor Holahan, helped learn more about the Blackstone River via a unique and exciting study of storm drain runoff – one of the river's major sources of pollution. Gathering samples and conducting research, these students explored all of the storm drains within a one-block radius of Assumption School. They presented their findings to the head of the Millbury Highway Department, as well as the Millbury Board of Selectman – helping draw new attention to this key challenge for river communities.

### JANICE AND MICHAEL FERRY

This husband-wife team of educators brings the Blackstone River alive in local classrooms, helping a new generation understand the importance of the river. Janice teaches at Mount St. Charles Academy and Michael at Woonsocket High School, and both share a love of the river. Projects they have spearheaded include the Community Pollution Prevention Project, the Blackstone River Project for teacher education, a phosphate transit study of the river, and a wide range of local environmental projects. Both are active in the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) program.

## VOICES FOR THE VALLEY



"The Blackstone National Heritage Corridor Commission is playing an increasingly important role in the

economic revitalization of the Valley. Greater historic preservation efforts, enhanced recreational opportunities, and many other initiatives launched as a result of the Corridor designation have been essential in improving the quality of life in the region."

*Senator Edward M. Kennedy (MA)*



"It has been a pleasure to have worked to help fulfill the vision of the Blackstone Valley preservation effort during the past fifteen years. The staff and volunteers who have contributed to this effort have a marvelous sense of the value of the Corridor to our communities and the ecosystem. The Corridor is a brilliant concept brought to life, and is a model for what can be achieved through vision and partnership."

*Senator John F. Kerry (MA)*



"The Blackstone River Valley has played an important role in our nation's history, serving as the birthplace of the

American Industrial Revolution. The river, which runs through Massachusetts and Rhode Island, was the source of power for the textile mills that are the symbol of that period of growth. Today, the Blackstone River Valley is a dynamic region that promotes economic revitalization, environmental protection and cultural preservation."

*Representative Richard E. Neal (MA)*



"The Blackstone Corridor is an extraordinary resource for Southern New England. In recent years, the Corridor has

begun to serve as a national model for effective and responsible preservation policies. I look forward to continuing to work with Corridor officials and my congressional colleagues to ensure that the Corridor has the resources it needs to carry out its mission."

*Representative Jim McGovern (MA)*



"The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is a natural and historic treasure that is a source of pride

for all New England. I have been pleased to support the efforts to make the Valley's beauty and history more accessible while still preserving and protecting the valuable resources that make it so unique."

*Senator Jack Reed (RI)*



"The Corridor Commission has been instrumental in forging collaborative partnerships to revitalize and promote regional responsiveness to economic, environmental and cultural issues in the Blackstone River Valley. As Senator, I will continue to do all I can to provide the necessary resources to sustain these invaluable restoration endeavors."

*Senator Lincoln Chafee (RI)*



"For the past fifteen years, the Blackstone Corridor has served as a model public-private initiative in the areas of

historic preservation, economic growth and environmental restoration. I am proud to join with my colleagues in the Rhode Island and Massachusetts' delegations in securing federal funding to enable this great initiative to continue to prosper in the future. The Corridor is a great success story in two states."

*Representative Patrick Kennedy (RI)*



"This national recognition of our region's rich history and achievements is a great source of pride to the people of

the Blackstone Valley and a reflection of the collective commitment between community, industry, government and the Corridor Commission to protect the Blackstone River and to celebrate its achievements."

*Representative James Langevin (RI)*

